

splash!

quick facts on...

Caloosahatchee River (C-43) West Basin Storage Reservoir

MAY 2011

The South Florida Water Management District

is a regional, governmental agency that oversees the water resources in the southern half of the state. It is the oldest and largest of the state's five water management districts.

Our Mission is to manage and protect water resources of the region by balancing and improving water quality, flood control, natural systems, and water supply.

The Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, the Congressionally approved framework for restoring, protecting and preserving the water resources of central and southern Florida, calls for construction of the 170,000 acre-foot Caloosahatchee River (C-43) West Basin Storage Reservoir Project. It will help store and manage basin runoff for meeting estuary needs during the dry season.

Project Description

Located on 10,000 acres of former farmland in Hendry County, Fla., west of Labelle, the Caloosahatchee River (C-43) Reservoir will hold approximately 170,000 acre-feet of water, with the maximum depth ranging from 15 feet to 25 feet across the reservoir. It will provide a significant portion of the

total water storage requirement for the Caloosahatchee Estuary. The reservoir will capture and store local basin runoff and Lake Okeechobee regulatory releases. This will result in a reduction of harmful discharges to the coastal estuaries, improvement in the health of the ecosystem and a

revitalization of fish and oyster habitats by maintaining desirable salinity ranges. Releases of water from the reservoir will provide essential flows during the dry season resulting in improved salinity balance, survival of young fish and shellfish and ecological health of the Caloosahatchee Estuary.

Purpose and Benefits

- Capture and store stormwater runoff from the C-43 basin, reducing excess water flow to the Caloosahatchee Estuary.
- Capture and store federal regulatory releases from Lake Okeechobee, reducing discharges to the coastal estuaries.
- Improve the salinity balance for the Caloosahatchee Estuary by controlling peak flows during the wet season and providing essential flows during the dry season.
- During the dry season, provide needed fresh water and nutrients to sustain an estuarine nursery that supports recreational and commercial fisheries.

Project Status

The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) acquired the project land and completed the construction and testing of reservoir test cells to evaluate seepage barriers and levee construction design. This information was applied to the detailed design of the reservoir, which was completed by SFWMD in January 2008. All necessary permits have been obtained.

The October 2010 cost estimate for this project is \$579,599,000. To date, approximately \$100 million has already been invested to purchase the land, construct/monitor the test cells and complete the project design.

The final Project Implementation Report Addendum and supplemental Chief's Report are complete and ready for Congressional authorization.



Water releases from the Caloosahatchee River Reservoir will provide essential flows during the dry season, improving the ecological health of the Caloosahatchee Estuary.

Caloosahatchee River and Estuary Watershed

- Caloosahatchee River and Estuary Watershed
- Caloosahatchee River (C-43) Reservoir
- Greater Caloosahatchee Estuarine Area

Counties: CHARLOTTE CO, GLADES CO, HENDRY CO, LEE CO, COLLIER CO

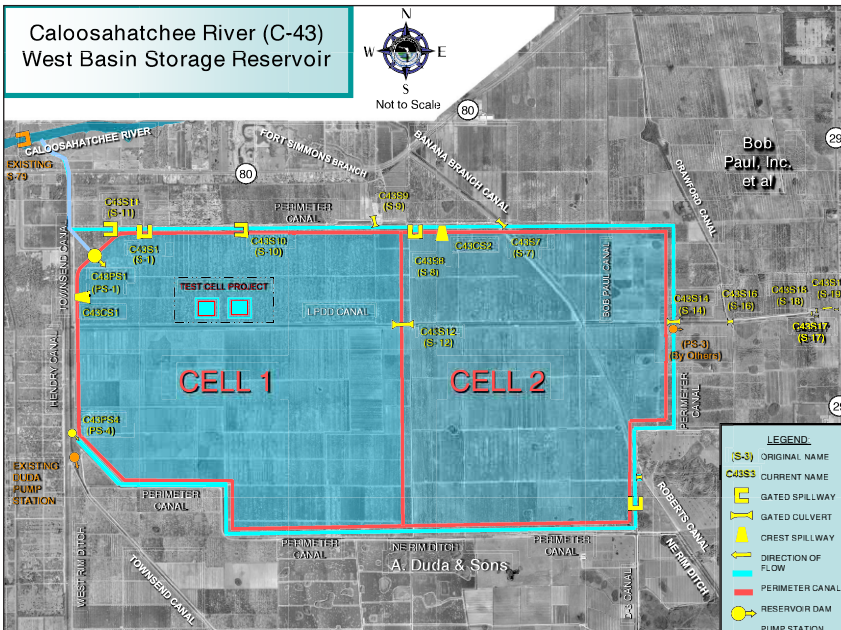
Water Bodies: Charlotte Harbor, Matlacha Pass, Pine Island Sound, San Carlos Bay, Estero Bay, Lake Okeechobee, Lake Trafford

Key Features: S.W.F.W.M.D., S.F.W.M.D., Caloosahatchee River, C-43 Canal, Caloosahatchee River (C-43) Reservoir, S-77, S-78, S-79, S-80, S-82, S-84, S-85, S-86, S-87, S-88, S-89, S-90, S-91, S-92, S-93, S-94, S-95, S-96, S-97, S-98, S-99, S-100

Scale: 0 to 15 Miles / 0 to 15 Kilometers

Inset Map: SOUTHERN FLORIDA. Area shown on main map. Caloosahatchee R. Watershed. Northern Everglades. Southern Everglades. Gulf of Mexico. ATLANTIC OCEAN.

proj11-1.mxd, 4/14/2011



The aboveground Caloosahatchee River (C-43) West Basin Storage Reservoir, located in Hendry County, will capture and store stormwater runoff from the C-43 basin and regulatory water releases from Lake Okeechobee, reducing the number and volume of harmful discharges to the coastal estuary.



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